

## Press Release

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### **RHODIA AND FAURECIA JOIN INNOVATION FORCES TO DEVELOP LIGHTWEIGHT SEAT STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS**

**Paris, May 19, 2011** ----- Faurecia, a global supplier of engineering solutions and automotive components, and Rhodia, a world leader in the development and production of specialty chemicals, have teamed up to jointly develop next-generation innovative lightweight automotive seat structural components using polyamide-based high-performance engineering plastics.

Faurecia and Rhodia have worked together since November 2009 and ratified their cooperation with the signature of a joint development agreement (JDA) in February 2011. The main aim of this agreement is to develop a range of seat cushion components utilizing Rhodia's Technyl® SI, an impact-modified polyamide grade. The resulting plastic seat cushion structural components are projected to be 20% lighter than conventional steel parts, without compromising safety.

The joint development agreement between Faurecia and Rhodia combines the leading-edge seating design expertise of Faurecia with Rhodia's engineering plastics technology, further enhanced by its unique know-how in advanced predictive simulation and part design.

*“Faurecia is working with game-changing materials – developed by Rhodia – and structural seating concepts to meet the substantial challenges which the automotive industry faces in producing lighter vehicles. Faurecia has developed a clear vision, strategy and roadmap to reduce the weight of automotive seats. This partnership is expected to help car makers comply with ever more stringent emissions regulations worldwide”* said Patrick Koller, Executive Vice-President of Faurecia Automotive Seating.

*“This co-innovation project with a worldwide leader in automotive components represents a significant step towards the introduction of advanced polyamide materials as a competitive alternative to steel for automotive on structural applications. This breakthrough has been made possible thanks to complementary expertise provided by both parties and a strong teamwork”* added François Hincker, President of Rhodia Engineering Plastics.

The seat cushion structural components jointly designed by Faurecia and Rhodia are currently in advanced development, with series production expected in 2014. Beyond this important milestone, both companies will extend their cooperation to further explore new innovative solutions to help meet automotive OEM's needs for lightweight solutions.

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**Faurecia** is the world's sixth automotive equipment supplier with four key business groups: Automotive Seating, Emissions Control Technologies, Interior Systems and Automotive Exteriors. In 2010, the Group posted total sales of 13.8 billion Euros. It employs 75,000 people in 33 countries with 238 sites and 38 R&D centers. Faurecia is listed on the NYSE Euronext Paris stock exchange.

For more information, please visit the website [www.faurecia.com](http://www.faurecia.com)

**Rhodia** is an international chemical company resolutely committed to sustainable development. As a leader in its businesses, the Group aims to improve its customers' performance through the pursuit of operational excellence and its ability to innovate. Structured around 11 Global Business Units (GBUs) within 5 business clusters, Rhodia is the partner of major players in the automotive, electronics, flavors and fragrances, health, personal and home care markets, consumer goods and industrial markets. The Group employs around 14,000 people worldwide and generated sales of €5.23 billion in 2010. Rhodia is listed on Euronext Paris.

For more information, please visit our website [www.rhodia.com](http://www.rhodia.com)

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